

# ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Another explosion on January 6 has focused attention on At Sea Incineration's plan for a huge toxic waste tank farm and processing facility they want to build in Ironbound. Assemblyman Raymond Lesniak (D-Union) has said he will introduce a law that will stop At Sea's plans. Mr. Lesniak pointed out that to put another major toxic waste facility in the middle of the Newark-Elizabeth-Jersey City area would be **"just waiting for a tragedy to happen."** This area has recently been the site of a number of major accidents involving toxic or hazardous materials.

The explosion on January 6 could be heard 100 miles away and sent a dense cloud of black smoke into the air that could be seen for miles. The NJDEP declared a pollution alert in Passaic and Bergen counties but refused to acknowledge that the fumes were being breathed by people in the Newark-Jersey City area. The fire was caused by an overflowing storage tank. The initial spark that started the fire probably came from a facility also located in Ironbound, that has been cited by the DEP and EPA for illegally burning toxic wastes.

Last October 10 another toxic waste plant in Ironbound exploded **killing one man** and endangering thousands of others with toxic fumes. This company



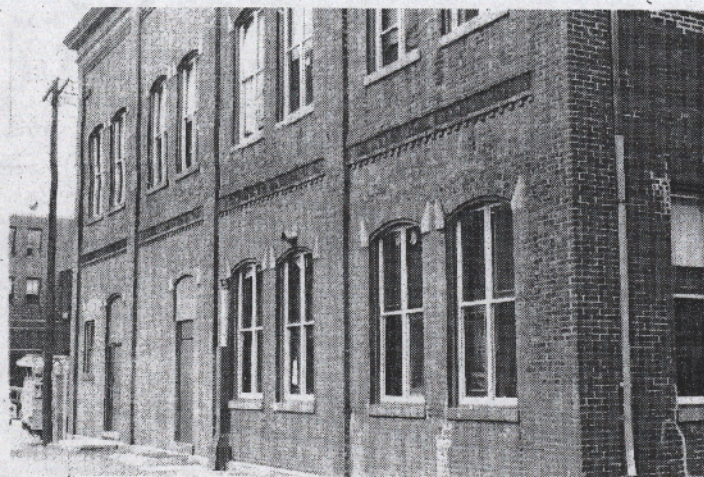
now wants to operate another plant at the same

On October 24, 1981, a company that was illegally storing toxic wastes on Ferry St. exploded in flames. The fire sent toxic gases into Ironbound residents' homes.

Other toxic accidents in Ironbound during the last few years include a leaking tank car at the Oak Island Railroad yard that forced the evacuation of hundreds of people at Newark Airport and Port Newark, an accident at SCA that released toxic gases into the air, the death of a construction worker from toxic gases in a sewer.

Nearby cities have also suffered. In April 1981, explosions and fires occurred at Chemical Control in Elizabeth. Ironically, the fire happened while the NJDEP had control of the place, showing people how much they could depend on the state to protect them. An accident in Bayonne at another toxic waste facility killed 12 people in the hospital. A fire at the Bayway refinery in Linden a few years ago could be seen in Newark; it burned out of control.

Ironbound residents have demanded for years that **more toxic wastes be brought here.** Mr. Lesniak's law to stop At Sea Incineration would help protect the neighborhood.



## Explosion Closes School

by Sister Patricia McManus

Once again the students and staff of St. Aloysius School have been victimized by a local disaster. The recent Texaco explosion caused enough damage to the school building to warrant the closing of the school for at least 3 days until the 38 smashed windows and frames were replaced. Several classrooms resembled places ravaged by war. Broken glass literally covered the rooms.

What is *really* frightening about this latest catastrophe is the thought of the number of people...especially innocent children sitting in a classroom...who would have been injured or killed had the explosion happened at 12:15 P.M. instead of 12:15 A.M.

Sister Patricia McManus is principal of St. Aloysius School on Fleming Ave. & Freeman Sts.

## Everybody's Backyard

"They (At Sea) would be putting the largest concentration of toxic chemicals in the world in the middle of the highest population in the State...There's already a track record of near misses and near tragedies. To throw an added burden on to this area is **just waiting for a tragedy to happen.**"

The speaker was Assemblyman Ray Lesniak (Union County). Mr. Lesniak was only one of a large number of public officials, labor representatives, church leaders, and community groups from Bayonne, Jersey City, Elizabeth and Newark who spoke out at a press conference January 18 organized by the **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Wastes.**

The press conference was held at St. Aloysius School, where 41 windows were knocked out during the Texaco explosion.

TV channels 2, 4, 5, 13 and 68 covered the press conference. Also radio station WNEW and the Star Ledger, the Hudson Dispatch, the Asbury Park Press, the Jersey Journal and the Elizabeth Daily Journal.

### "A Regional Issue"

Bob Cartwright for the **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Wastes** told people that At Sea's proposed facility would not solve New Jersey's toxic waste problem, but in fact "will make it worse. What it means is that we will be importing millions of gallons of toxic chemicals." He criticized the State and Federal government for not enforcing toxic waste disposal laws, and for taking 2 of the most successful investigators, Detective Seargent Ottens and Penney of the State Police, off the enforcement of toxic waste laws. "We demand that as a first step these men be reinstated," Cartwright said. Mr. Cartwright spoke about the high levels of cancer, heart and lung disease among Ironbound residents due to chemical pollution already present and urged support for Assemblyman Lesniak's law which would prevent At Sea from building its plant in this highly populated area.

**Assemblyman Lesniak** praised the work of the Ironbound Committee and its friends and supporters. "You've been

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